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(e) whether each of the municipalities in the Presidency is allowed to elect only one member to the District Educational Council concerned or whether any of the municipalities are allowed more than one member and, if so, which they are and on what basis; and

(f) whether the number of seats allowed for the taluk boards in the Presidency which are not bifurcated has been reduced to one and, if so, on what basis?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Where municipalities formerly elected two members to these Councils their representation has now been reduced to one. This reduction is due to the necessity for giving new taluk boards representation on District Educational Councils without at the same time unduly increasing the size of these Councils.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) This election was made on 14th October 1932 and on the 8th December following Government passed an *interim* order to the effect that the question of a re-allocation of seats was then under consideration and that orders calling on local authorities to elect the prescribed number of members to the District Educational Council would be issued in due course. Orders having been subsequently passed reducing the number of seats to be filled up by the Salem Municipal Council, among others, to one, the President was informed on 24th April of this year that the particular election by the Municipal Council, Salem, could not be notified.

(*e*) No mufassal Council is allowed to elect more than one member to the District Educational Council.

(*f*) Not in all cases. For details as to the representation allowed to individual taluk boards, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to G.O. No. 355, Education, dated the 4th March 1933, which was placed on the table of the House on the 17th March last.

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"With reference to the answer to clause (*c*) may I know why this disability has been put on the Ootacamund Municipal Council by reducing the number of its representation from 2 to 1?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I do not know whether it arises out of this question. If it does, Sir, I want notice."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know, Sir, how long these district educational councils will continue to function?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"As long as we allow the Elementary Education Act to remain on the statute book as it is."

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Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know whether it is a fact that members of the district educational councils are not elected at one and the same time but vacancies are filled up irregularly as and when they arise? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" I think it is so."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I know whether the hon. Minister contemplates to bring in a measure in this House to see that these councils are modified or do not exist? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" I do not think any such measure is under contemplation."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—" May I know whether the representation given to the taluk boards is adequate to the number of schools they are managing? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" That question was recently examined and we have fixed the number of members with reference to the number of schools under these taluk boards."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" Was there any report before the Government at any time suggesting the abolition of these district educational councils? If so, at what stage is the consideration of this report? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" The question was considered by my predecessor, Dr. Subbarayan, and it was decided then that it was undesirable to abolish these district educational councils."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know whether the Government will consider the question of having the members of the district educational councils elected at the same time as is done in the case of local bodies instead of at irregular intervals? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" I shall consider whether this will be a step in the right direction."

Industries

Manufacture of ceramic wares on a commercial scale.

* 66 Q.—Mr. M. S. Sreshta: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) with reference to his answer to question No. 614 (*b*) of 27th February 1933 (vide page 178 of volume 65, No. 3) whether it has been found that ceramic wares can be made locally on a commercial scale; and

(*b*) whether porcelain insulators for high voltages can be made locally?

A.—(*a*) Manufacture on a commercial scale has not been attempted.

(*b*) This can only be ascertained after further investigation and experiment.

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Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—"With reference to clause (b) of my question, may I know whether further investigation and experiment will be made?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"It is not possible, Sir. The services of the ceramic expert who was employed hitherto have been dispensed with, as a measure of retrenchment."

Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—"Does not the hon. Member consider that, in view of the fact that this investigation has not been made, it is desirable to obtain the services of the expert again?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"I am afraid not, unless the financial conditions improve."

Manufacture of distemper in South Kanara.

* 67 Q.—Mr. M. S. Sreshta: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state whether experiments have been made with a view to ascertain whether the clay plentifully available in South Kanara, Malabar and other districts is suitable for the manufacture of distemper?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—"Is the hon. Member aware that in Ceylon the Public Works Department is making experiments to find out whether distemper cannot be made locally?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"I do not know, Sir."

Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—"Will the hon. Minister be pleased to call for information?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"Yes, Sir, if I am satisfied as to its necessity."

[For further list of starred questions, please see pages 161 and 181 infra.]

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Administration of Justice

Applications from Viswa-Brahmans for nomination as Honorary Magistrates in the city and in the mufassal.

68 Q.—Rao Sahib Pandit Ganala Ramamurti: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many applications were received by the Government from the members of the Viswa-Brahman community since 1920 in the matter of nomination of the community as Honorary Bench Magistrates in the city and special or Bench Magistrates in the mufassal; and

(b) how many of them were appointed as such along with their names and localities?

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A.—(a) & (b) The collection of the information is extremely difficult and the Government do not consider that any public purpose will be served by it.

Forests

Time-scale of pay for Forest Range Officers.

69 Q.—Mr. M. B. RANGASWAMI REDDI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are considering the question of fixing a time-scale of pay to the Forest Range Officers; and

(b) in what stage the question is?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have considered the question and have fixed a time-scale for the V Grade, the first four grades being on fixed pay.

Prisons and Prisoners

Prevalence of dysentery in the Central Jail at Trichinopoly.

70 Q.—Mr. M. B. RANGASWAMI REDDI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many Civil Disobedience prisoners were in Trichinopoly jail in 1932;

(b) how many were affected by dysentery;

(c) how many died;

(d) whether the doctors visited the jails properly when dysentery was prevalent;

(e) if the answer is in the negative, the reason for the same;

(f) whether it is a fact that the prisoners suffering from dysentery were not supplied with bedding for three days;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether Mr. Neelakanta Ayyar was one of such prisoners;

(i) whether Mr. M. R. Subrahmanya Ayyar of Madura was affected by dysentery;

(j) whether he was released for medical reasons as the result of dysentery by the end of April 1933 before the end of his term of imprisonment;

(k) why he was not properly attended to before;

(l) whether it is a fact that as per jail rules, doctors should sleep in the jail hospitals during nights;

(m) whether water is supplied to prisoners with the help of machinery and the number of pumps installed; and

(n) whether it is a fact that though there are two machines, the prisoners experience much difficulty for bathing?

A.—(a), (d) to (k), (m) & (n) The Government have no information but have called for it.

(b) 32.

(c) 1.

(l) The hon. Member is referred to rule 66 of the Madras Jail Manual.

Release of Mr. O. T. P. Ramayya Nadar, a Civil Disobedience Prisoner of Virudunagar.

71 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. RANGASWAMI REDDI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether political prisoners have been released before their time without any reason in this Presidency;

(*b*) if so, how many have been released and under what Act;

(*c*) why was Mr. O. T. P. Ramayya Nadar, Seventh Dictator, Virudunagar, convicted by the Subdivisional Magistrate, Sattur, for two years' rigorous imprisonment and Rs. 1,000 fine, released all on a sudden;

(*d*) why was the fine of Rs. 1,000 not refunded proportionately; and

(*e*) whether his fine has been reduced, and if so, when it will be refunded?

A.—(*a*) The sentences of some Civil Disobedience prisoners have been suspended. Each case was considered and decided on its merits.

(*b*) The sentences of 263 Civil Disobedience prisoners were suspended till the 14th July 1933. Action was taken under section 401, Criminal Procedure Code.

(*c*) The Government carefully considered the case of Mr. O. T. P. Ramayya Nadar and in the exercise of their discretion suspended his sentence.

(*d*) No portion of the fine was paid or collected.

(*e*) Does not arise.

[For further unstarred question please see page 180 infra.]

STARRED QUESTIONS

Law and Order—General

Release of political prisoners in the Presidency.

* 72 *Q.*—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of political prisoners in the various jails in the Presidency;

(*b*) the number that was released during the last two months stating the number of those that had completed their terms and those that were released before they completed their term of imprisonment; and

(*c*) whether the Government are proposing to release the political prisoners before their terms of imprisonment are completed and if so, by what date and whether all of them would be released?

A.—(*a*) The number of civil disobedience prisoners in jail on the 30th June was 480.